

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

P.O. Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511

www.HuffmanOmalleyCC.org

February 2004 Newsletter

Next meeting **February 19th** 7-9 pm,

Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley Roads

Our next meeting is on February 19th, 7-9 pm, at The Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of O'Malley Rd. and Lake Otis Pkwy. Coffee and tea are available, please feel free to bring snacks.

AGENDA

Update on results of meeting with Carol Comeau regarding Leyden Rd. pedestrian access to South Anchorage High School; Alaska Zoo regarding their parking lot site review; the Anchorage School District is sending representatives to discuss the April ballot regarding school bonds;

COUNCIL MEMBERS CHANGE

Marv and Angela Kuentzel have resigned from the Council, they are moving to the Valley; Melissa Schmeidt is resigning, she and her husband are moving to Arizona; Steve Minatani and Dave Rein have also resigned. All will be missed by the Council and we wish them well.

Katie Nolan was elected at the January 15th meeting and all other open positions will be filled within the next couple of months to fill vacancies until our annual elections in April.

Speaking of April elections, in the bylaws for the Council are term limits. Our President, Ryan Stencel, will have served two years and thus will be at her limit. According to the bylaws, the president to be elected will have to be from the pool of current steering committee members.

RAINBOW CONNECTION & CHAMBERLAIN EQUESTRIAN CENTER

At our January meeting, representatives from Rainbow Connection addressed the council regarding a ballot proposition to be on the April ballot. The Rainbow Connection is a group that was formed about twenty years ago to provide therapeutic horseback riding to handicapped children and adults. It is a wonderful program and the benefits are immeasurable.

The Rainbow Connection, through private fundraising, has raised enough money to build themselves a facility. Among other things, one of the biggest benefits to this facility is that their program will be available yearround rather than summer only.

Rainbow Connection wishes to lease ten acres within the Chamberlain Equestrian Center property, which is approximately 640 acres for this facility. The lease would be for a term of 40 years. The area of the Equestrian Center that has been chosen is already cleared of vegetation; drainage and other concerns will be adequately addressed by professional engineers during the permitting and construction phases of development.

The question has to be posed to the voters because of the way the park was created and the redtape that's attached. The taxpayers will not be committing any monies, bonds, etc. to this facility, only giving permission for them to use the property.

The HOCC voted unanimously to support. The group has also visited all surrounding councils and received their support.

ZOO PARKING SITE REVIEW

The Alaska Zoo has applied for a site review regarding relocation of their parking area when they lose a significant portion of their parking area to the O'Malley Road upgrade.

After receiving the application and proposed plan, I met with the zoo's representatives and discussed the neighborhood's concerns, which they were very responsive to. Some of the initial concerns voiced last year have been addressed in this final plan. For instance, a dedicated bus area has been created on the west end of the property and using the already existing west entrance on O'Malley Rd. for that purpose, virtually eliminating the major concern of the residents regarding bus traffic on Our Road.

I have a copy of the plans and will gladly talk to anyone and provide copies. Please call Ryan at 345-4316 or email at akstenc@aol.com to get further information. The public hearing on this case is March 1st and Zoo representatives will be at this February meeting to discuss the plan with residents.

"EQUESTRIAN ORDINANCE" UPDATE

I attended a meeting last week at the Planning Department concerning the present version of the "equestrian ordinance" and Brian Dean, co-author and from the Code Enforcement Department came to the January meeting and briefed the council.

The meeting with the Planning Department was very productive and many changes are going to be made to the ordinance to better fit it to the need and purpose. The current version has basically two provisions, if the barn is twice the size of the house you would have to get a conditional use permit, and a limit of two horses per 20,000 square feet of property space (R-6 is 1-1/4 acre or 54,500 square feet). Both of these provisions are supposed to be changed in the next draft. When the next draft is made available I will provide further information, right now it's just wait and see.

TITLE 21 REWRITE - IMPORTANT!!!!

The Title of the Anchorage Code that governs construction, land use, etc. is being rewritten. The Municipality has hired Clarion and Associates, a reputable company in this arena, to do the rewrite.

I attended a meeting this week with Clarion. There are some problems in the re-write as the other attendees pointed out to Clarion and they are incorporating that input into the next draft.

Printed copies of the proposed rewrite are available at Town Hall, 632 W. 6th Avenue, or at the Planning Department, 4700 Bragaw St. Online, full information is available at: http://www.muni.org/planning/prj_title21.cfm or by calling 343-7921. You can also email your questions and comments to the Planning Department at Title21@ci.anchorage.ak.us

LAKE OTIS PIT TO PARK PROJECT UPDATE

Pioneer Community Development, Inc. is starting the fundraising portion of their endeavor; all legal aspects are in order and preparations made. All indicators are positive and some grants, etc. are starting to come in, but nothing speaks louder to grantors than community involvement and support.

Please show your support of this group as they are accomplishing something thought to be impossible...to work with a developer for the greater good of the community.

Besides the open fields for many uses, the development will also include a building that will provide meeting space and a community center, something we sorely need in south Anchorage.

Their website is www.pittopark.com and they are looking for written community support and gifts that will be matched by grant sources. They operate under the 501(c)3 status of the Alaska Community Foundation, so you can be assured your money is going where intended. All gifts are tax deductible and can be made in any form, cash, stocks, bonds, property, long-term endowments, etc.

PCD, Inc. wishes to thank everyone for their wonderful support over the last two years with this project and they look forward to the upcoming year watching the plan come together.

PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES AND ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION

Dan Burden, a pedestrian and bicycle safety expert and alternative transportation expert is coming to Anchorage (tentatively) February 18-24 to work with the transportation professionals, elected officials and interested citizens groups on how to make Anchorage a safer place to walk and bike. This will cover the decision-making gamut from planning, budgeting, design, construction and assessing the effectiveness of our efforts designs that result in efficient, but slower speed traffic, and safe pedestrian facilities.

If you are interested in participating in this discussion and/or representing the council at these get togethers, please call Ryan at 345-4316.

O'MALLEY ROAD UPGRADE

In addition to the joint council meetings scheduled in the future concerning O'Malley Road, HALO will be hosting an open house on the O'Malley Road upgrade project on February 5th at the Holy Retreat Center, corner of Hillside Drive and O'Malley Road.

What is a Community Council? Councils are made up of residents of the area who get together once a month to discuss everything going on in the council area. We give our input to the Municipality and work closely with the Assembly to represent the residents in many issues, including land use decisions. A Council is only as good as its membership and more effective if their Assembly members listen. (Thankfully we have Janice Shamberg and Dick Tremaine.)

I/we want to become a contributing member of HOCC.
Enclosed is my \$5 - \$250 (limited by Anchorage Municipal Code) yearly contribution.

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, PO Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511

Your Community Council represents you every day with the Anchorage Municipal government. Want input and know what we're saying and doing on your behalf????